

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4191
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 19774

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RP, LY
SUBJ: GOP-MNLF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) TRIPOLI 1565; B) MANILA 19234

1. IN ARMED FORCES DAY SPEECH DEC. 22, PRESIDENT MARCOS
ANNOUNCED CONCLUSION OF "NINE-POINT AGREEMENT" WITH MUSLIM
REBEL MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) IN TRIPOLI.
PRESIDENT DID NOT REVEAL CONTENTS OF AGREEMENT. HE SAID
"WE ARE CALLED UPON TO APPOINT A GROUP TO IMPLEMENT THE
AGREEMENT" AND "THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL DETERMINE
THE AREAS OF THIS UNDERSTANDING."

2. DEC 22 PRESS REPORTS FROM TRIPOLI QUOTED GOP NEGOTIATING
TEAM LEADER BARBERO AS SAYING THAT "EXCEPT FOR ONE ISSUE"
POINTS RAISED BY THE ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT HAVE BEEN SETTLED.
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PHILIPPINE PRESS ALSO REPORTED TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS
BETWEEN QADHAFI AND MARCOS IN WHICH FORMER ALLEGEDLY REITER-
ATED HIS COMMITMENT TO MRS. MARCOS TO HELP SOLVE THE
MINDANAO CONFLICT WITHIN CONTEXT OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY
AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PHILIPPINES. LOCAL
PRESS ALSO GAVE PREDICTABLE FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO

MRS. MARCOS DEC 20 STATEMENT THAT HER EARLIER TRIP TO LIBYA HAD ACHIEVED "MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH" IN SOLVING THE MINDANAO PROBLEM.

3. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER TALKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OR ARE MERELY IN RECESS. FACT THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING SECRETARY GENERAL GAYE, HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN NEGOTIATIONS APPEARS TO MAKE IT LESS LIKELY THAT A FOLLOW-UP ROUND WILL BE HELD IN JIDDA SINCE ORIGINAL RATIONALE FOR FOLLOW-UP WAS TO INFORM THE SECRETARIAT OF TRIPOLI RESULTS.

4. LOCAL PRESS COMMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN CURIOUS BLEND OF RAPTUROUS OPTIMISM WITH CONSIDERABLY MORE REALISTIC STATEMENTS, SUCH AS OBSERVATION BY COLUMNIST VALENCIA THAT REGARDLESS OF TRIPOLI RESULTS, "REAL SOLUTIONS" WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR FINAL MEETING IN MANILA WHERE "OTHER MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN (SIC) REBEL LEADERS" WILL BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO BE HEARD.

5. COMMENT: AS YET EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON ALLEGED NINE POINT AGREEMENT, IF IT EXISTS AT ALL. WHATEVER IT MAY BE IT IS PRESUMABLY NOT REPEAT, NOT THE "NINE POINTS" OF 1975 WHICH GOP ANNOUNCED AS THE CURRENT MNLF POSITION ON DEC 9 AND SUBSEQUENTLY DENOUNCED AS STILL UNACCEPTABLE (REF B). WHATEVER TRUTH MAY BE, THRUST OF CURRENT PUBLIC GOP COMMENT REMAINS THAT QADHAFI-MARCOS COOPERATION HAS MADE SUCCESS POSSIBLE AND WE HAVE HEARD FROM DFA SOURCES THAT QADHAFI VISIT TO THE PHIL-
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IPPINES IS PLANNED FOR JANUARY.
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